Amendments to the Specification

Please rewrite the section heading on page 1, line 6 as follows:

~~TECHNICAL~~ FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please rewrite the section heading on page 1, line 14 as follows:

BACKGROUND ~~ART~~OF THE INVENTION

Please rewrite the section heading on page 5, line 15 as follows:

[SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION]

Please rewrite the section heading on page 9, line 11 as follows:

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

Please rewrite the section heading on page 9, line 23 as follows:

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

Please rewrite paragraph [0039] as follows:

[0039] Further, for example, compounds containing an isocyanate group attached to a nonaromatic hydrocarbon ring, that is, trimers of the so-called alicyclic isocyanate ~~compouns~~compounds, or a product of a reaction thereof with an active hydrogen compound are preferred. Preferably, isophorone diisocyanate, which is easily commercially available, are used as the alicyclic isocyanate compound. Hydrogenated

tolylene diisocyanate, hydrogenated xylylene diisocyanate, hydrogenated diphenylmethane diisocyanate and the like may also be used.

Please rewrite paragraph [0071] as follows:

[0071] In the present invention, preferably, the ionizing radiation cured film layer has a multilayer structure of two or more layers, because the occurrence of pinholes can be further reduced. Preferably, 0.5 to 20% by weight of the silicone compound is contained in at least one of the two or more layers. More preferably, 0.5 to 20% by weight of the silicone compound is contained in the uppermost layer located in the multilayer structure on its side remote from the support (that is, the face separated from the synthetic leather). When the silicone compound is contained on the uppermost layer face, the releasability can be improved. Further, even when the release paper is repeatedly used in the synthetic leather production, the releasability of the release paper can be satisfactorily maintained. When the ionizing ~~radiatioan~~radiation cured film has a multilayer structure of two or more layers, the layer(s) other than the uppermost layer may not contain the silicone compound.

Please rewrite paragraph [0098] as follows:

[0098] Base paper making may be carried out, for example, by using a Fourdrinier multi-cylindrical machine, a tanmo multi-cylindrical machine, an enmo (cylinder) multi-cylindrical machine, a Fourdrinier/tanmo combinational ~~multi-cyclindrical~~multi-

cylindrical machine, a Fourdrinier/enmo (cylinder) combinational multi-cylinder machine, and a Fourdrinier Yankee machine.

Please rewrite paragraph [0103] as follows:

[0103] The release paper for synthetic leather production according to the present invention is produced by carrying out the step of providing an uncured ionizing radiation curing resin film on a clay coating layer provided on a support, the step of embossing the uncured ionizing radiation curing ~~rein~~resin film, and, after the embossing, the step of applying an ionizing radiation to the ionizing radiation curing resin film to cure the ionizing radiation curing resin film.

Please rewrite paragraph [0106] as follows:

[0106] In order to realize good embossability, ~~statisfactory~~satisfactory strength, and proper smoothness, preferably, the pulp is a mixture composed of a softwood pulp and a hardwood pulp and having a softwood pulp content of not less than 20% and has a basis weight of 80 to 250 g/m^2.

Please rewrite paragraph [0121] as follows:

[0121] Next, an expandable vinyl chloride resin composition is coated on the skin layer formed of a vinyl chloride resin, and the coating is heated to form an intermediate layer. The ~~exapandable~~expandable vinyl chloride resin composition may be such that an expanding agent such as azodicarbonamide or

dinitrosopentamethylenetetramine has been added to the same composition as used in the skin layer. In general, this expandable vinyl chloride resin composition is coated onto the skin layer, and the coating is then heat dried at 180 to 250°C to expand the expandable vinyl chloride resin and thus to form an intermediate layer.

Please rewrite paragraph [0138] as follows:

[0138]

Silicone compound β

A solution of 10 g of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 40 g of styrene, 40 g of methacryl modified silicone (FM0711, manufactured by Chisso Corp.), and 2 g of laurylmercaptane, dissolved in 200 g of methyl ethyl ketone was heated in a reactor equipped with a stirrer, a reflux condenser, a dropping funnel, and a thermometer to 65°C. When the temperature reached 65°C, 0.6 g of 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile) was added to the solution. Further, two hr after the temperature reached 65°C, 0.6 g of 2,2'-azobis(2,4- dimethylvaleronitrile) was again added to the solution. A reaction was allowed to proceed at 65°C for additional 5 hr to give a copolymer. An adduct (79.3 g) prepared by reacting 22.2 g of isophorone diisocyanate with 57.1 g of a mixture composed of pentaerythritol triacrylate and pentaerythritol tetraacrylate at 25°C for 3 hr and then allowing a reaction to proceed for 5 hr while ~~intermiettently~~intermittently raising the temperature to 80°C was added to the copolymer, and the mixture was allowed to react at 80°C for 5 hr to give a copolymer containing an acryloyl group and a silicone (a silicone compound β).

Please rewrite paragraph [0195] as follows:

[0195] The results were as shown in Table 6. As is also apparent from Table 6, the ~~smoothnsss~~smoothness was high and 462.3 sec. Further, regarding the tensile strength and the tear strength, also in condition (2), the tensile strength (kN/m) in the machine direction was 12.8 kN/m, that is, was not less than 10 kN/m, and the tear strength (mN) was 638 mN in machine direction and was 578 mN in cross direction, that is, was not less than 500 mN in both the machine direction and cross direction.

Please rewrite paragraph [0201] as follows:

[0201] The results were as shown in Table 6. As is also apparent from Table 6, the ~~smoothnsss~~smoothness was low and 77.2 sec. Further, regarding the tensile strength and the tear strength, also in condition (2), the tensile strength (kN/m) in the machine direction was 14.0 kN/m, that is, was not less than 10 kN/m, and the tear strength (mN) was 655 mN in machine direction and was 605 mN in cross direction, that is, was not less than 500 mN in both the machine direction and cross direction.